

Clara Robinson, Petition to Remain in Virginia, Henrico County, 1848

To The Honourable
The General Assembly of Virginia

Humbly coming, Your Petitioner Clara Robinson a free woman of color - respectfully sheweth: That she hath been recently emancipated by her Mistress Elizabeth Gibson resident of the City of Richmond in consideration of her previous services and uniform good conduct and demeanor as set forth in the deed of emancipation recorded in the Hastings Court of the City of Richmond - and now being of advanced age (60 years) and bound to the City of Richmond by the strongest ties - all of her children being Slaves living in the said City - and holding associations of the kindest character with many of the families of white Citizens here resident, she is exceedingly loath to quit the City, unknown and unprotected to wander to a foreign State meeting the hardships and infirmities of old age unsupported and uncheered by the warmth of filial affection or kindly gratitude for past services - and therefore she respectfully prays that she may be allowed to remain within the Commonwealth of Virginia for the remainder of her life and be admitted to register in the City of Richmond as a manumitted Slave! And Your Petitioner further respectfully shews, that in addition to the considerations above stated, she has been for several years professionally employed in the City as an accoucheur or midwife and given satisfaction generally in that capacity - in evidence whereof she tenders the Certificate of the Honorable James A. Seddon drawn up in his own hand and signed by a large number of the medical faculty of Richmond who in the course of their obstetrical practice have had occasion to employ her and kindly given this testimonial of their valuation! This certificate moreover proves that she is and will be well supported by her employment so long as such services are necessary in Society and thus not become a burden to the State or City, should the Legislature in their wisdom grant the burden of this prayer! All of which is

Most Respectfully Submitted
Clara Robinson

December 13th 1848 }

See the certificate on next page!

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